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June 25, 2001



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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Appl. No. 09/769,420; filed January 26, 2001  
For: **Substituted Nicotinamides and Analogs as Activators of Caspases and Inducers of Apoptosis and the Use Thereof**  
Inventors: Cai *et al.*  
Our Ref: 1735.0440001/RWE/BEC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (in duplicate);
2. Form PTO-1449 (8 sheets) and accompanying (28) references; and
3. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents  
June 25, 2001  
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

*Bruce E. Chalker*

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